

FAST FACTS ON GEORGIA'S GREEN INDUSTRY:

- The Georgia Green Industry contributes over \$259 million in cash receipts to Georgia's economy annually.
- Our division licenses over 7,000 businesses that sell live plants in Georgia.
- All of Georgia's Crops annually contribute over \$1.8 billion in cash receipts to Georgia's economy.
- Plant Health Inspectors conduct over 11,000 inspections per year.
- Agriculture is Georgia's largest and arguably the most important industry!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

*Please visit our website at:

http://www.agr.state.ga.us/html/plant_protection.html

*References & Useful Resources:

Federal Noxious Weed Program:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds/>

USDA/APHIS-PPQ:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/>

Rules & Regulations of the State of Georgia:

<http://www.ganet.org/rules/>

University of Georgia Cooperative

Extension Service Publications:

<http://www.ces.uga.edu/pubs/pubssubj.html>

<http://www.bugwood.org/>



Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide excellence in services and regulatory functions, to protect and promote agriculture and consumer interests, and to ensure an abundance of safe food and fiber for Georgia, America and the world by using state-of-the-art technology and a professional workforce.



Tommy Irvin
Commissioner

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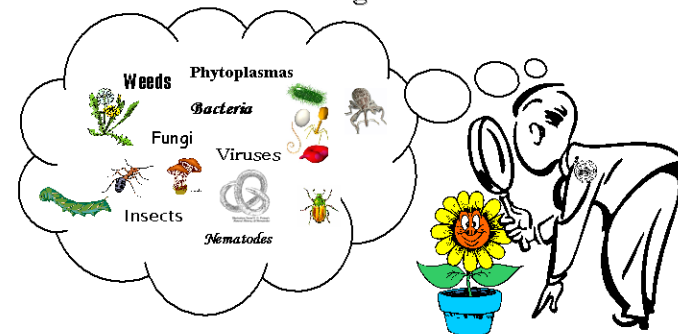


GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Plant Protection Division

Plant Protection through Pest Detection...



...So Plants don't have to be Afraid!

The Purpose of the Plant Protection Division is to promote the highest quality and integrity of plants and plant products produced by the Georgia Green Industry while ensuring consumer protection.

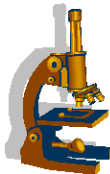
In addition, we facilitate and encourage the export of numerous Georgia Grown commodities to many states and nations around the world through our regular inspections and phytosanitary certification programs.

We promote sustainable agricultural practices and environmental conservation and protection through integrated pest management (IPM) initiatives and public education.

And finally, our goal is to safeguard Georgia's agriculture and natural resources from introduction, establishment, and spread of plant pests and noxious weeds through detection and management programs.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS

- Live Plant Grower/Dealer Licensing
- Phytosanitary Certification – Permits for moving/exporting plants out of Georgia
- Horticultural Growing Media Registration
- Federal Imported Fire Ant Quarantine
- Apiary (Honeybee) Inspections
- Japanese Beetle Quarantine
- Boll Weevil Eradication Program
- Live Plant Health Inspections
- Prevention, monitoring & eradication programs for introduced exotic and invasive pest species



Live Plant Grower/Dealer Licensing

This Division is responsible for inspecting and licensing all plant growers and dealers (including florists and landscapers) in Georgia to ensure that plants for sale are properly maintained, healthy, and free from insect, disease, and weed pests. We also ensure that Federally Listed Noxious Weeds are not being sold or distributed in Georgia. If you are interested in opening a nursery, greenhouse, florist shop, or landscape company, please contact us for a license application.

Phytosanitary Certification

Phytosanitary Certificates are essentially permits for moving live plants or plant products out of Georgia. This office is authorized to issue both Federal and State Phytosanitary Certificates. These permits certify that the plants or plant products are insect and/or disease free and meet the requirements for legal entry into another state or foreign country. These permits are often required because there may be insects, diseases, or noxious plants that may occur in Georgia but not in other states or countries. Some states, primarily the Western states, require all houseplants to be inspected by this office before they are allowed to cross their borders. For more information see: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/exports/basic_information.htm



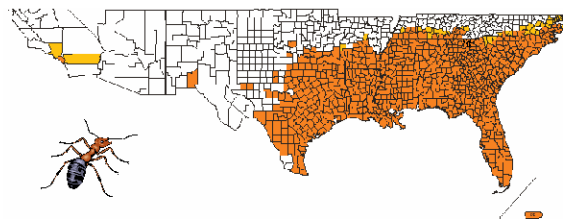
Horticultural Growing Media Registration

To protect consumers and maintain consistency in the potting soil industry, the Georgia Department of Agriculture has adopted regulations concerning labeling and soil media composition. It is our responsibility to register and approve potting soils and all label information, including the base material, percentage of peat, bark, and other contents. If you are interested in selling media in Georgia, please contact our division for a registration packet.



Imported Fire Ant Quarantine

The USDA has imposed a quarantine to slow the spread of imported fire ants in the U.S. In order to ship plants and plant products out of the quarantine area, growers must comply with federal guidelines, including treating plant stock with insecticides and maintenance of areas free from fire ants where plant stock is grown. Our office may issue Federal Fire Ant Stamps to nurseries that have satisfied these requirements. This stamp allows nurseries to ship plant products out of the quarantine area.



Restrictions are imposed on the movement of regulated articles from the quarantined (shaded) areas into and through the unshaded areas. Consult your state or federal plant protection inspector or your county extension agent for assistance regarding exact areas under regulation and requirements for moving regulated articles.

Imported Fire Ant Treatment Manual:
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/ifapub.pdf>

Apiary Inspections

The honeybee industry is very important to Georgia. Georgia is among the leaders in the U. S. for commercial queen and package bee production. Honeybee pollination is vital to Georgia crops such as watermelon, cantaloupe, squash, and tree fruit production. The Plant Protection Division is responsible for inspecting beehives to ensure that all queen bees, package bees, and hives are free of pests and are in good health.

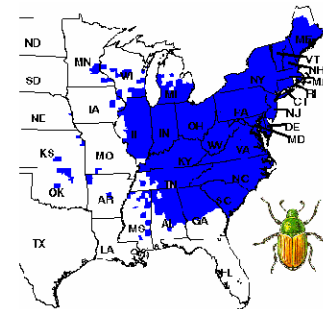


Japanese Beetle Quarantine

All nursery or greenhouse shipments of nursery stock into Category 1 & 2 states must be treated according to the *U.S. Domestic Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan* (see <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/npb/jbintro.html>; Note: This website includes a regularly updated list of all Category 1 & 2 states).

Growers who ship frequently into Category 1 & 2 states may choose to enter into a *Compliance Agreement* with the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Treatment options under the

Compliance Agreement include Dip treatments for B&B Trees and Container Plants, Soil Surface treatments, and/or the *Japanese Beetle Management Strategy*. The Management Strategy will probably be the most economical approach for most Georgia nurseries. In order to comply with the Strategy, the nursery must sample for Japanese beetle larvae (grubs), maintain a weed-free area, and conduct regular treatments for control of Japanese beetles. Either the entire nursery, or selected blocks within the nursery, may participate in this program. Shipments of nursery stock into states where the Japanese beetle is already established are unrestricted.



Boll Weevil Eradication Program

Eradication efforts continue to push the boll weevil westward and, hopefully, out of the United States. The Plant Protection Division enforces boll weevil regulations and collects assessments from cotton farmers for the Boll Weevil Eradication Program. These assessments are used to place and monitor boll weevil pheromone traps around cotton fields and to control any re-infestations. Because the boll weevil is still a threat to Georgia's cotton production, no one may grow ornamental cotton, even as a novelty, without a permit. The cotton boll weevil was eradicated from Georgia in the early 1990s. Since then, cotton production has increased from 200,000 acres to nearly 1.5 million acres annually.

